[DOE LETTERHEAD]

AUG 22 1994

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Suite 700
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a copy of the quarterly report for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 93-5. The quarterly report is provided according to Commitment 1.10 of the associated Implementation Plan.

Four commitments are behind schedule. These are detailed in the enclosed report. The most serious of these is deployment of the rotary mode sampling truck. We estimate startup of rotary mode sampling in early September and are making an effort to mitigate the effects of this delay.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Tank Waste Characterization Program. If you or the Board members have any questions, please contact me. My staff contacts for this program are James Antizzo (301-903-7180) and Kenneth Lang (301-903-7453).

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Implementation Plan for Resolution of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-5 was accepted by the Board on March 25, 1994. Between December 1993, (when the plan was submitted to U.S. Department of Energy-Headquarters) and June 30, 1994, there have been 51 commitments. Of these, 33 have been submitted to U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office on or ahead of schedule, and 14 have been submitted late. Four are past due and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) continues to work overtime to minimize future schedule slips.

Even given the four missed activities, there have been significant improvements and changes in the Characterization Program, bringing in experienced senior technical/programmatic managers. WHC has completed changes in management of the Characterization Program, bringing in experienced senior technical/programmatic managers. Dedicated operational personnel have increased to over 100. The Characterization Program has improved the access of characterization data and involved the customer organizations who use the characterization data. Alternate sampling methods have been developed to balance continued difficulties in obtaining necessary recovery samples, especially the first segment. Sampling and analysis has restarted. Three Data Quality Objective documents have been issued since March 31, 1994. Currently, the first 20 data packages are being evaluated to provide statistical variability information. Also, tank content estimates based on historical data (flow sheets, transfers, and old analytical information) have been completed for two of the four quadrants, covering 100 of the 177 tanks. The Tank Characterization Report format and content was finalized with the Washington State Department of Ecology.